

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 29th, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
House Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James E. Clyburn
House Majority Whip
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Hoyer, and Whip Clyburn,

We are writing today with two purposes: first, to share our growing concern about the youth e-cigarette epidemic impacting communities throughout the country; and second, to request that the House act swiftly to address youth use of e-cigarettes. The Energy and Commerce Committee favorably reported Chairman Pallone's Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic Act, and we would like to vote on this comprehensive approach to addressing the youth tobacco epidemic as soon as possible.

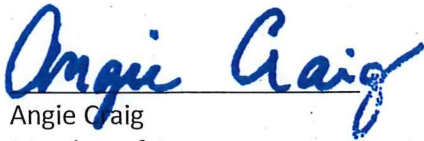
The latest numbers regarding use of e-cigarettes by our nation's young people demand our attention and action. Youth tobacco use is at its highest rate since 2000, driven overwhelmingly by the surge in youth e-cigarette use. Over 5.3 million youth were e-cigarette users in 2019, an increase of 3 million young people in just 2 years' time. Over 27 percent of high school students reported using e-cigarettes in 2019 and use amongst middle schoolers tops 10 percent of all students.

The surge in youth use has been driven by flavors. The tobacco industry has a long history of targeting youth with flavored products. E-cigarettes come in over 15,000 flavors, including mint and mango. Flavors attract children and mask any unpleasant harshness. The vast majority of kids report that they use e-cigarettes "because they come in flavors I like."

The need for action by the House has become even more urgent now that the Administration has backtracked on the plan that Secretary Azar announced in September to remove flavored e-cigarettes, including mint and menthol, from the market. The Administration's new plan will leave a wide array of flavored e-cigarettes on the market, despite the evidence that flavors make these addictive products more appealing to youth. Also, the new law raising the tobacco sale age to 21, while a good step, is not expected to have significant short-term impact and is not a sufficient response to the youth tobacco epidemic that continues to rage.

Chairman Pallone's Reversing the Youth Tobacco Epidemic offers a comprehensive approach to tackle the issue of youth e-cigarette and tobacco use. We urge you to schedule a vote early this year and appreciate your consideration of this request.

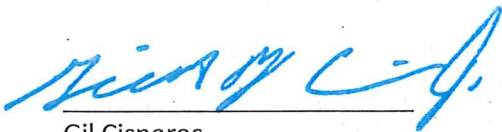
Sincerely,



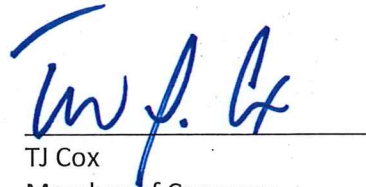
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



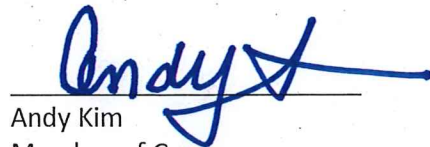
Sean Casten
Member of Congress




Gil Cisneros
Member of Congress



TJ Cox
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Kendra Horn
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
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Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
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Haley Stevens
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress